

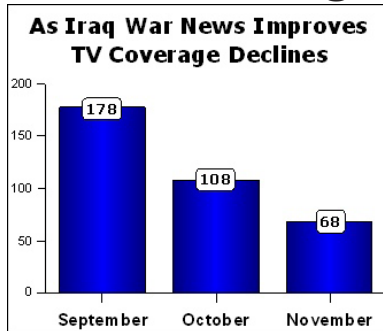


MEDIA FAIRNESS INITIATIVE: A WEEKLY LOOK AT BIAS IN THE NEWS

Friday, December 7, 2007



Coverage of Iraq Declines as Situation Improves



As the news in Iraq improves, the networks have fewer stories reporting on it, according to a new Media Research Center (MRC) study.

MRC surveyed all 354 Iraq news stories that aired on the ABC, NBC, and CBS evening newscasts from September 1-November 30. **The results show a significant decline in the amount of stories as the situation in Iraq improved.**

In September, the networks aired a total of 178 Iraq stories (about two per network per night). In October, network news stories on Iraq declined by about 40 percent (108 stories), with the number of reports filed from Iraq itself falling to just 20 (less than 20 percent of all Iraq stories). **By November, the networks aired just 68 stories**, with only eleven (16 percent) coming from the war zone itself.

The months of October and November marked the lowest number of U.S. troop casualties over a two-month period since early 2004.

CNN Fails to Properly Vet GOP Debate Questioner

At the recent November 28 GOP presidential debate, hosted by CNN and YouTube, former General Keith Kerr asked the candidates about the right of gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military.

CNN failed to reveal that Kerr is a member of the gay and lesbian steering committee for Democrat candidate Hillary Clinton. He also was reportedly an active supporter of 2004 Democrat presidential candidate John Kerry. Kerr appeared on CNN twice in 2003 discussing his stance on gays in the military.

Afterward, David Bohrman, Senior Vice President and Executive Producer of the debate, issued the following statement. "We regret this incident. CNN would not have used the general's question had we known that he was connected to any presidential candidate."

Former ABC News Anchor Shows True Colors

Carole Simpson, a former ABC news anchor who is now a journalism professor at Emerson College, has faced criticism for recently endorsing Hillary Clinton for president at a New Hampshire campaign event that she attended with her students.

"I want to tell you tonight, because I happen to be here with my students, that I endorse you for president of the United States," she said. **"It's very freeing now that I'm not a journalist and I can speak my mind,** and I wanted you to know I think you are the woman, and I think this is the time."

Simpson said she regretted her actions and offered her resignation after the rally, but college administrators refused to accept it. Simpson reportedly is considering an offer to join the Clinton campaign in an official capacity. She and university administrators reportedly agreed that she will not teach political journalism courses if she campaigns for Clinton.

Emerson students and faculty continue to discuss the ethical concerns raised by a journalism instructor and recognizable former reporter publicly endorsing a political candidate.